

"The Ruse of the Rattler" ✓

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#### SYNOPSIS OF PLAY

When Bud Sanderson was arrested for cattle stealing, Henry Morgan advanced the money to defend him, in return securing an option on the ranch. Bud broke jail and Morgan sent his gang, in charge of "The Rattler," to run the Sandersons off the ranch before Bud learned too much. "The Rattler" met Helen Sanderson, saw the injustice of Morgan's demands, and refused to carry them out. By mere chance he learned that Morgan had double-crossed him, and he set out to rescue the Sandersons and bring Morgan to justice.

Helen suspected Morgan of crookedness and followed Bud to Cabrillos, a hangout of lawless men. Her intuition told her that "The Rattler," bad as he was, would help them. Her hopes died when "Smile," Morgan's henchman, brought word that he had killed "The Rattler." But he was mistaken, as was proven when "The Rattler" walked in, held up the gang, knocked Bud unconscious and dragged him off to jail, for he realized that Bud would be safer there until matters were settled.

Helen misunderstood "The Rattler's" motives and, the next day, thinking to buy Bud's freedom, she sold the ranch to Morgan, who substituted a fake package for the real money. When "The Rattler" discovered it, he went to Morgan for an accounting. Morgan fled in terror, and "The Rattler" in hot pursuit. They both caught the same train, which was wrecked. Morgan, mortally wounded, confessed and cleared Bud. "The Rattler" was taken to the hospital in a critical condition, but the love he saw in Helen's eyes urged him to recovery.

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